

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09317 01 OF 02 040028Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-07 /052 W

-----022365 040124Z /12

P R 030916Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7373

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSFORCES KOREA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 9317

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MPOL, KS, US

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATUS OF ROK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: SEOUL 9311 (DTG 030735Z NOV 77)

THIS IS THE SECOND OF THREE TELEGRAMS.

1. INITIAL DEVELOPMENT. ADD BECAME OPERATIONAL IN 1972. SINCE THAT TIME THE AGENCY HAS INCREASED IN SIZE AND EXPANDED THE SCOPE OF ITS MISSION. AS CURRENTLY STAFFED AND ORGANIZED, ADD EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 2000 PEOPLE AND CONSISTS OF A CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, THREE LABORATORIES AND TEST RANGES. THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IS CONSOLIDATED WITH THE SEOUL LABORATORY, WHICH IS CHARGED PRIMARILY TO SUPPORT ROKA, WHILE THE TAEJON LABORATORY AND CHINHAE LABORATORY ARE TASKED TO SUPPORT AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY AND NAVAL SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY RESPECTIVELY.

2. ADD'S PROJECTS. ADD-SEOUL LABORATORY IS DEEPLY INVOLVED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09317 01 OF 02 040028Z

IN ATTAINING A CAPABILITY TO SUPPORT ON-GOING AS WELL AS NEW START PRODUCTION PROGRAMS. WHILE INITIALLY ADD HAD

PLANNED ONLY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR A PROJECT UP THROUGH PROTOTYPING, THEY HAVE NOW BEEN EXPOSED TO THE REAL WORLD

PROBLEM OF SUPPORTING PRODUCTION PROGRAMS AND THE NEED

FOR PRODUCTION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPPORT FOR SUCH PROGRAMS. ADDITIONALLY, ADD-SEOUL IS ENGAGED IN PROTOTYPING OF AMMUNITION NEEDED BY ROK FORCES AS WELL AS ACQUIRING COMBAT/TACTICAL VEHICLE AND COMMUNICATION/ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY. ADD-SEOUL EMBODIES THE ONLY ROKG CAPABILITY FOR ENGINEERING SUPPORT OF ROKA FIELDED WEAPON SYSTEMS, AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT.

3. THE ADD-CHINHAE LABORATORY IS STILL IN AN EMBRYONIC STAGE BUT IS SEEKING TO OBTAIN TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLS THAT WILL ENABLE THEM TO ADAPT THE M-44 TORPEDO TO THE SHALLOW KOREAN SEAS, INVESTIGATE ASW AND HARBOR DEFENSE SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES, AS WELL AS TO MAINTAIN AND PRODUCT IMPROVE THE WEAPON SYSTEMS, RADARS, ETC. CURRENTLY IN THE ROK NAVY INVENTORY.

4. MISSILES AND ROCKETS. THE ADD-TAEJON LABORATORY IS ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF ACQUIRING AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY AND, AS REPORTED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES, HAS EXPERIENCED A REORIENTATION OF EFFORT WITH TERMINATION OF CLANDESTINE EFFORTS ON A MEDIUM-RANGE (300-500KM) SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE PROGRAM. SINCE THE LABORATORY HAS EXTENSIVE FACILITIES AND A LARGE STAFF, ADD MANAGEMENT IS SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO EMPLOY THIS FACILITY IN A PRODUCTIVE ROLE OR FACE SEVERE CRITICISM. THEY ARE CONDUCTING AN EXTENSIVE STUDY TO DETERMINE MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS TO JUSTIFY RETENTION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 09317 01 OF 02 040028Z

OF THE FACILITY AND STAFF. IN LATE SEPTEMBER, DR. YI KYONG SO, VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE TAEJON LABORATORY, BRIEFED MEMBERS OF THE JUSMAG-K STAFF AND HAD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ON PLANS FOR MND APPROVED MISSILE AND ROCKET PROJECTS WHICH ADD HOPES TO HAVE FUNDED IN CY 1978. THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON THESE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN CANDID AND OPEN, AND ARE ONGOING. THE BRIEFING AND DISCUSSIONS HAVE COVERED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS, THE FIRST FOUR OF WHICH RESULTED FROM ROK SERVICE GENERATED REQUIREMENTS:

A. MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHER - TO PROVIDE RAPID ROCKET RESPONSE TO SUPPRESS LARGE COMBAT AREA.

(1) WARHEAD: 45 LB X 28 ROUNDS/HE

(2) CEP : 420 M

(3) RANGE : 20 KM

B. SHORT RANGE ROCKETS - FOR FIRE SUPPORT FOR ARMY CORPS.

(1) WARHEAD: 1000LB/HE

- (2) CEP: 450 M
- (3) RANGE: 70 KM

C. REMOTELY PILOTED VEHICLE (DRONES) - FOR DECOY AND SURVEILLANCE FOR ARTILLERY.

- (1) MAX. SPEED: M-0.7
- (2) MISSION RANGE: 200 KM
- (3) G & C: PREPROGRAMMED OR RADION COMMAND, QUIPPED WITH RADAR AUGMENTER.

D. SHIP-TO-SHIP SHORT-RANGE MISSILE - TO ATTACK ENEMY SMALL VESSELS (100 TON OR LESS).

- (1) WARHEAD: 110 LB/SC/HE
 - (2) CEP: 5 M
- SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SEOUL 09317 01 OF 02 040028Z

- (3) RANGE: 5-10 KM
- (4) MAX. SPEED: M-0.8
- (5) GUIDANCE: T.V. HOMING OR OTHER TERMINAL GUIDANCE

E. LASER HOMING MISSILE - TO ATTACK FORTIFIED POSITIONS.

- (1) WARHEAD: 200 LB/HE
- (2) CEP: 1 M
- (3) RANGE: 30 KM

F. NIKE-HERCULES PROTOTYPE - SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE TO ATTACK SOFT TARGETS SUCH AS SAM SITES, RADIAR SITES,

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09317 02 OF 02 040054Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-07 /052 W

-----023368 040124Z /12

P R 030916Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7374

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSFORCES KOREA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 9317

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

AIR DEFENSE SITES, E

G. NIKE-HERCULES RELOAD- FOR REPLACEMENT OF ROK NIKE-HERCULES PROPELLANT WITH EXPIRING SHELF LIFE.

5. COUNTRY TEAM COMMENT. IN DISCUSSING ADD, IT IS NECESSARY TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE ROLES OF ITS RESPECTIVE LABORATORIES. CERTAINLY, WITHOUT TECHNICAL

SUPPORT BY ADD'S SEOUL LABORATORY, THE ENTIRE DEFENSE INDUSTRY EFFORT WOULD FALTER AND MAY WELL ULTIMATELY FAIL.
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09317 02 OF 02 040054Z

MANY PROGRAMS VITAL TO SUPPORT OF ROK ARMY, SUCH AS PRODUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ARTILLERY, TACTICAL VEHICLES, AND AMMUNITION, WOULD SUFFER SEVERE SETBACKS. IN OUR ASSESSMENT, THE ADD-CHINHAE NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OFFERS SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL TO BUTTRESS THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY OF THE ROK NAVY, A VERY WEAK AREA, AND TO ADAPT U.S. WEAPON SYSTEMS TO THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE ROK NAVY IN PROTECTING AN EXTENDED SHORELINE AGAINST INFILTRATION AND ATTACK BY QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY SUPERIOR NAVAL COMBATANT VESSELS OF NORTH KOREA. THE CRUCIAL ISSUE THEN BECOMES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ADD-TAEJON LABORATORY, WHOSE CAPABILITIES, WHILE OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT ROK FORCES THROUGH ADAPTATION OF EXISTING U.S. SYSTEMS OR BY SYSTEMS INTEGRATION OF U.S. COMPONENTS, ALSO EMBODY THE ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN PROTOTYPING AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF MISSILE SYSTEMS WHICH COULD BE DESTABILIZING AND THUS ANTITHETICAL TO USG INTERESTS. COUNTRY TEAM COMMENT ON THIS SPECIFIC AREA IS PROVIDED BELOW:

A. ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSION ON THESE SEVEN PROJECTS APPEAR TO BE COMPLETE, WE BELIEVE THAT, IN FACT: NOT ALL OF THE

ADD PLANNED EFFORTS IN THE MISSILE AREA HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IN ADDITION TO THESE PROJECTS, THERE IS THOUGHT AT LEAST BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OVER A SIX-TO-EIGHT YEAR TIME FRAME OF A MEDIUM-RANGE (300 TO 500 KILOMETERS) MISSILE. THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN A DECISION TO PROCEED WITH SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, BUT ADD DOES APPARENTLY HAVE A BROAD AND GENERALLY VAGUE MANDATE TO ACQUIRE THE SOPHISTICATED MISSILE (PARTICULARLY GUIDANCE) TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY FOR SUCH A PROJECT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SEOUL 09317 02 OF 02 040054Z

B. WE ARE AWARE OF OPPOSITION IN THE ROK JCS TO THE EXPENDITURE OF ANY LARGE SUMS FOR THE PROTOTYPING OF A NIKE-HERCULES MISSILE (PROJECT F ABOVE). OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE '78 PROJECT, WHICH ADD HOPES TO WORK ON, WILL BE THE LAST GASP AND IS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO PERMIT ADD TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE EFFORTS WHICH HAVE GONE INTO THE PROTOTYPING OF THE NIKE-HERCULES MISSILE SYSTEM WITH UPGRADED ELECTRONICS WERE NOT COMPLETELY WASTED.

C. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT ROCKET AND MISSILE TECHNOLOGY IS AVAILABLE FROM THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES. A NUMBER OF ADD PERSONNEL HAVE RECEIVED ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND HAVE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRY R&D ACTIVITIES AND INDUSTRY. THE DETAILS OF THIS EXCHANGE ARE NOT KNOWN HERE BUT THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH FRENCH, ROC, GERMAN AND BRITISH GROUPS BY ADD PERSONNEL.

D. FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT ALL SEVEN PROJECTS INVOLVE, AS FAR AS ADD CURRENT PLANNING IS CONCERNED, SOME U.S. ASSISTANCE, THEREBY CONFRONTING THE U.S. WITH SOME SERIOUS POLICY QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, TO A LARGE EXTENT, ASSISTANCE IN THESE PROJECTS IS ALREADY PROVIDED FOR BY COMMITMENTS ALREADY MADE BY THE USG. (FOR EXAMPLE, SEE COMUSK 070435Z SEP '77).

6. U.S. COMMITMENTS. AT THE EIGHTH SCM IN 1975, THE USG MADE A COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE RELOADING OF NIKE-HERCULES ROCKET MOTORS IN KOREAN FACILITIES. WE ALSO MADE A COMMITMENT AT THAT SCM AND BOTH SUBSEQUENT ONES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENTS OF MISSILE SYSTEMS IN THE ROK INVENTORY. FURTHERMORE, AT THE TENTH SCM IN 1977, UKCDEF BROWN REAFFIRMED THE USG COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ROK IN ARTILLERY AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURING. AT THE SAME TIME, HE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SEOUL 09317 02 OF 02 040054Z

ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KOREAN INDIGENOUS TANK. IN ADDITION TO THESE COMMITMENTS, THE USG HAS A MUTUAL WEAPONS DEFENSE DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH THE ROKG (CONCLUDED IN 1963) FOR THE EXCHANGE OF R&D INFORMATION AND SOME PRODUCTION INFORMATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF WEAPON SYSTEMS, EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION. THE 28 ANNEXES TO THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGE OF DATA ON CLOTHING, FOOD, AMMUNITION, FREE FLIGHT ROCKETS, ARTILLERY, GUNS, MORTARS, WHEELED AND TRACKED VEHICLES, STANO (SURVEILLANCE) AND COMM EQUIPMENT, CBR, SHORT-RANGE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES, SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES, TORPEDOES, NAVAL MINES, NAVAL SHIPS, ETC.
SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL09317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770406-0122
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771199/aaaadhjm.tel
Line Count: 296
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02be4923-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 9311
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 728132
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT STATUS OF ROK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: MPOL, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02be4923-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009